California GARDEN

10c

EUCALYPTUS

PHOTO BY HAROLD A. TAYLOR

September 1934

Begonia Research
By Eva Kenworthy Gray

Garden Color
By John Gibbs Adams

Proteas for California
By Eric Walther

The Magazine . . .

"California Garden"

A Practical Local Guide published monthly
for more than 20 years
Subscription $1.00 per year

The official organ of the San Diego Floral Association, in its 24th year of continuous activities.
All interested in garden matters and civic beautification are invited to join. Dues $1.50 per year. Magazine and Membership combined $2.00 per year.

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NEW COMMITTEES

Mrs. Mary A. Greer president of the San Diego Floral Association has appointed the following members of standing committees for the coming year: House committee—Miss Alice Halliday, Mrs. R. R. Morrison, Miss Etta Schwieder, Mrs. John Nuttall, Miss Laura Brewster and Mrs. M. A. Greer. Program committee—Mrs. Paul V. Tuttle, Miss K. O. Sessions and Mrs. Robert Morrison. Membership committee—John Wimmer, Mrs. Neff Bakkers and Mrs. DeForest Ward.

REPORT OF AUGUST MEETING

The meeting in August of the Floral Association was well attended. A comprehensive talk on Fuchias was presented by Mrs. Bertha Thomas who had specimens of blossoms to demonstrate the beauty of the flower. As a result of her talk a large number of exhibits were made in the fall show which interested garden growers. Mrs. Paul Tuttle gave a few hints for the care of Iris at this time. As usual Miss Kate O. Sessions finished the evening with an interesting discussion of new shrubs and plants.

OCTOBER MEETING

The October meeting will feature John Gibbs Adams of Pasadena who is consulting landscape architect for Rancho Santa Fe. He will give an illustrated talk on famous gardens

TREE DAHLIA

The tree dahlia grows from 10 to 12 feet high and is a late fall bloomer here.

PLANT WILD FLOWERS

Hikers, trampers, motorists, campers, nature-lovers, everybody! Let's help Mother Nature beautify the road sides of San Diego County.

You, who are going out into the country for a hike or a trip or a picnic in the fall, take a package of wild flower seed with you, turn over a little fresh earth, sprinkle your seeds, pile a little brush over them to keep the birds from pulling them up, then go back in the spring and see if you aren't glad you did it.

If everyone who went into the country for an outing, for an afternoon or a week, near or far, planted a few little wild flower seeds along his way, soon our road sides would be bordered with wild gardens and people would come from far away for the pleasure of driving around San Diego.

Half the people who come down here don't appreciate our wild flowers roads. Let's bring the wild flowers to the road sides. Let's go out along these road sides and bring in specimens, not armfulls, of flowers to fill our homes, but let's plant seeds to take the places of those we pick.

—RUTH ASHTON.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF STATE GARDEN CLUB FEDERATIONS

The sixth annual meeting of the National Council of State Garden Club Federations will meet at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles, April 10 to 14 inclusive, 1935.

FINANCIAL REPORT OF FALL SHOW

Total gate receipts		$356.47
Disbursements—		
Rent of building	$25.00	
Publicity	10.00	
Advertising	13.50	
Ribbons and printing on same	16.83	
Trophies	47.60	
Window cards	2.67	
Premium lists	9.73	
Certificates	14.00	
Mailing tubes, for awards	2.50	
Entry cards	2.25	
Labor	24.75	
Park labor	7.00	
Laundry	3.80	
Seals	1.30	
Clerk's supplies	8.00	
Judges' lunches	2.75	
Postage, mailing of awards	5.78	
Drayage	.75	198.21
		$158.26

CALIFORNIA GARDEN CLUB FEDERATION

The California Garden Club Federation will have its third semi-annual meeting at the El Encanto Hotel in Santa Barbara, October 19-20-21. Santa Barbara will extend their usual hospitality to the visitors. Two teas on Friday and Saturday afternoon will be held during garden visits to the finest gardens. A Japanese luncheon will be held on Sunday followed by visits to historical places. Information may be had by writing to Mrs. Richard Kirkley, 432 South Serrano, Los Angeles.

The Fall Flower Show . . . .

By ADA PERRY

. . . *Dahlias Featured at Fall Show*

San Diego's 28th fall Flower show is exceedingly easy on the eyes. The gay products of the summer growing season seem to be unusually numerous this year and in excellent spirits—if flowers may be said to have dispositions. They completely fill the big show building on the corner of the plaza in Balboa park.

As is usual at fall shows, dahlias are the outstanding exhibits. There is a large square or patio for amateur growers with decorative and cactus dahlias of huge size, arranged down the centers of the tables and edged with little pompons. A special table of red, yellow, pink, buff, maroon and cerise poms is in the section, as is a table of seedlings. The seedlings are important entries this year.

There are several single dahlias of all sizes, and many of the half-size miniature decoratives.

Another large patio is filled with zinnias of all types. Asters, double and fluffy or star-rayed and single, are a third large class of one kind of bloom. They are very pretty this year. Marigolds are a fourth and are equally pleasing.

Multitudes of other kinds of flowers find places in the show. San Diego is versatile when it comes to growing all kinds, and very indulgent about seasons which overlap at times to an astounding extent.

There are two fine exhibits of roses, for instance, from the George Beeches of Cardiff and the Frank Lanes of Chula Vista, which look almost as fine as entries in April.

Among the odd and interesting in the general flower exhibits were two species of tillandsia, flowers allied to to the billbergias. They are parasitic in habit, and one has a bloom like the famous scarlet stalk of the snow flower, while the other is almost fish-like in appearance, having irridescent scales from which buds and then three-petalled blue flowers emerge. Richard Atkinson of Rancho Santa Fe exhibits this tillandsia, while the Palmcroft gardens and Miss Kate Sessions each show speciments of the other.

Miss Sessions also introduced acalapha hispida, a colorful, interesting plant related to the poinsettia and having long-tufted blooms irreverently dubbed "red hot cat-tails." The plant grows about two feet tall.

Numerous graceful, pleasing exhibits in the arrangement classes are scattered through the show, adding to it greatly. There are the color bouquets in white, cream, pink, red, lavender and blue; the French bouquets, and the miniature bouquets with all their shelf space filled and offering, as one observer put it, "big competition in small packages."

Card tables take the place of the dining table arrangements this time. They are attractive. The shadow boxes are very good and so are the miniature gardens.

Exhibits in the professional class account for their share of the show's interest, as usual. A new organization, the Growers and Dealers association of San Diego county have a fine big table of flowers of all kinds near the entrance. It is imposing.

Soledad Rock and Water garden has a succulent mountain with burro trail, in addition to its pool and other planting. The James H. Harveys of Encinitas show twin tables of gerberas, glads and dahlias in perfect form.

The Hansen nursery has fine petunias with bedding plants held in by a novel border of pete moss. Miss Sessions shows suitable shrubs for San Diego, as well as her corner of novelties. Walter Anderson has a pretty garden corner with a crystal globe. Knickerbocker nursery presents named exhibits of cactus with informing paragraphs for each; among them is a large teddy bear or jumping cholla.

The Comstock dahlia gardens exhibit their gorgeous specimens against a black curtain, and the Gray dahlia gardens against a white. Rockleigh dahlias are against a garden gate this year. Fred Wylie has one of his rock garden gems, and Rosecourt one of its luxuriant fern corners. Naval training station has a forest bank growth with the season's first chrysantemums in the foreground.

Palmcroft's exhibit of huge Rex begonias, which required the work of four men to install, received much admiration yesterday. The Williams and Macpherson display of subtropical fruits is larger than ever and there is an opportunity to see tomatoes in fruit in it.

Other commercial exhibitors were A. Erbeson and the Florodora Flower shop. George Otto & Son showed an outstanding basket arrangement.

James W. Coffroth sent many entries as is his usual custom in local shows.

Show judges were Silas Osborn, Donald Briggs, F. A. Bode, Peter Mackenzie, John Marshall, J. M. Cowie and Westergaard of Rosecourt. Judges of arrangements, Mrs. Arthur Shoven, Mrs. Maurice Braun, Mr. Erskine Campbell. The San Diego Floral association sponsors the show.

IRIS NOTES

Now is the time to clean up your old Iris clumps. Take away all dried leaves and if there is a large dried rhizome with a withered stalk in the center of your clump do not hesitate to lift it out and burn. Iris seems to me more and more each year to be a shrub that needs pruning and spraying and feeding. If there is any sign of root rot take up and cut away all affected parts, wash in a soapy suds, dry in sun and replant. Dutch iris can be planted from October to February. Altho prone to yellow stripe this type should be in every garden. A fresh planting each year will provide plenty of fine blooms that are well worth the effort. Dry bone meal can now be worked into the soil near clumps or a good covering of cow manure will bring new growth and bloom next spring. A well cared for clump of Iris foliage is one of the loveliest things in gardens during the late fall and winter. It is not too late to plant new rhizomes but doubtful of much blooming next season; but you can never tell! C. B. T.

Begonia Research . . .

. . . *Early Botanists Deserving of Gratitude*

By EVA KENWORTHY GRAY

We little realize how much we have to thank those old botanists who delved into unknown countries, searching out rare and beautiful plants to send to European countries to be propogated and later given to the world to be enjoyed and loved; even though years have passed since the tiny plant had been torn from its native country and carefully guarded across seas and wild terrain, to be finally installed in its new home. How eagerly the recipients of these strangers from another continent must have waited and carefully tended these alien denizens until at last they grew and the beautiful flowers appeared to their delighted eyes. A thrilling thing to happen to those who had spent their days and substance toward this goal.

Although Begonia Maculata was one of the first varieties to be sent out, the event occurring between the years of 1770 and 1829 by an Italian, Guiseppi Reddi, who studied earth's beauties in the Brazilian wilderness which he bore in great triumph to his home land, his name was not given to it to perpetuate his memory. It is better known now as B. Argyrostygma. Both names refer to the silvery spots on the upper side of the leaves. And now when we want to see a B. Argyrostygma we are pointed out a tall growing cane with pendent clusters of delicate pink flowers. But we can be fooled on this I find and some collectors who point with pride to their B. Argyrostygma would be sadly chagrined to find they had only a common seedling cane with pink flowers. So, if you want to know the *real* plant, look on the underside of the leaf and unless it is colored a deep rose or crimson, with a stiffly formed edge, then you do not have the genuine B. Argyrostygma.

And again we search for the old well known Rubra; the original of which has been swallowed up in the many seedlings which have been grown from time to time and called Rubra. Even though the seedlings appear the same with their long green smooth leaves and drooping red flowers, you would find by comparing, that there is a difference, even though so slight as to be scarcely perceptible. The original Rubra was discovered by two Spaniards in 1815, so it is not surprising that the original begonia is lost, and newer seedlings introduced.

It was first known as B. cocciana. Leaves are bright glossy green, obliquely oblong with *wavy red margins,* smooth in texture and have succulent cane-like stems. Flowers in drooping panicles of bright red.

Does this describe the one you call Rubra?

Several years ago I tried my hand in raising seedlings from Rubra as I had an idea that if I could only get one with *yellow* flowers it would be really a worth-while feat. So by crossing and recrossing with some other varieties I finally got a cane with orange red flowers, but failed to get one with yellow predominating. This I called Noordii, and it seems as though the name has been changed to Rubra Pad by some misunderstanding from growers

Hipolito Ruiz Lopez and his companion Jose Pavon discovered the Ruba in the wilds of Peru.

B. Manicata and its varieties come to us from Mexico. I have noticed that many of these Mexican begonias are of the rhizomatous species with their leaves lying close to the ground. Perhaps it is because of the hurricanes that spring up in that country and Nature has provided this way to protect their vegetation. Also that the leaves are smooth and shiny on top; that too, would be in their favor in case of hard rains it would let the abundant water slide off and so keep them from rotting.

The Manicatas are distinguished by their almost round leaves and hairy stems and underside along the veins are no detriment to them by too much moisture.

In searching for the originations of various species we come across many interesting bits. For example, here in America we have long known a very beautiful species as Palmata, so called because of the palmate shaped leaves. Then an interested member of the Begonia Club who had access to the library in the east found in an old French Horticultural Book that this begonia was brought to France in 1892 from Brabil and named after President Faureau, calling it D. Faureana. Also the one known here as B. Diadema was introduced the same year and called B. Faureana var. Metalica.

Also was discovered that the plant we knew for so long as the Pollard begonia was a French origination from a seedling of Incarnata, and listed as Madam Fanny Giron. It is really in the annual class, as it seldom can be carried over through the second year and so wise ones now who know its habits, take cuttings after it blooms and start new plants. It is known among those who have tried to grow it as a "finicky" plant, for it disappears quite suddenly when you have been believing you still possessed it.

Incarnata seems to have been used quite extensively in crossing with other species and is said to be the seed parent of the well known Arthur Mallett, from a cross with a Rex variety.

Incarnata grandiflora was grown by Mr. Charles Saunders, who perfected it by selection of the finest seedlings each year until he had a begonia much superior to the old Incarnata, the flowers of this are reported to be an inch in circumference. Though Mr. Saunders is now past ninety years, he is still active and still enjoys his work among his flowers. It was thirty years ago he first had his first hybrid plant of Incarnata.

FTD

The FTD is the representative organization of the floral industry. It numbers more than 6,000 members throughout the world who specialize in "Flowers by wire" service. Five thousand members are scattered throughout the United States and Canada. The florists business is an $8,000,000.00 industry. Frank J. Baker is the president of the organization. Flower styles is an important subject discussed at the annual convention.

Exposition . . .

Reprint "California Garden" October, 1909

. . .History Repeat Itself

The following article appearing in the columns of the "California Garden" of October 1909 is so apropos of the present situation with reference to the "California Pacific International Exposition" to be held in San Diego in 1935 that we have reprinted it in this issue. The wisdom foresight of the writer, the late Lyman J. Gage, becomes even more apparent with the passing of a quarter of a century. May our future be guided by a wise and careful study of the past. It is said that "history repeats itself." We present here the proof of that axiom.

—EDITOR.

THE PANAMA-CALIFORNIA EXPOSITION

From "California Garden" 1909
By Lyman J. Gage

The proposition to celebrate in 1915 the opening of the Panama Canal by an exposition to be created in the city of San Diego, is one which will excite smiles of derision in many quarters, intimidate the faint-hearted in our community, and call into action the highest courage and patriotic devotion of the whole body of our citizenship.

For, as Mr. W. Clayton, Chairman of the Executive Committee, says: "The success of this exposition begins and ends with the people of San Diego. Unless San Diego puts up a solid, bold, unbroken front, there will be no fair at all. Every man, every woman and even our school children must line up for a successful fair."

All this being true, is it not a proper question for the San Diego Floral Association to ask itself, "What can we do as an Association to co-operate in the great project in order to strengthen the movement, and give dignity to its accomplishment?" It is undeniable that the Association, young as it is, has already done much to make the homes of San Diego more beautiful and attractive. The evidence of this is seen in the flowering shrubs, blossoming plants and verdant lawns which now surround so many cottages, as well as villas, that formerly bore witness to carelessness and neglect.

These efforts of the Association, fruitful as we see them to be, serve but to indicate the greater energy which must be put forth to bring the city as a whole into that condition of beauty possible to it, and which may be made the fairest setting for the exposition itself.

It is the misfortune of towns and villages developing towards cityhood, as it is the misfortune of youth in passing into manhood, to pass through uncouth and awkward periods. These can be modified only by care and attention and the cultivation of good manners.

To the aesthetic visitor, the city, in its present stage of development, is suggestive of the undeveloped condition above indicated. Vacant lots, unfenced, without sidewalks—bare, bleak, hideous to look at! It would seem that the average owner of vacant property feels that he owes no duty to the general public, from whom all growth in value of his particular property is to be drived.

He appears oblivious to the fact that his property, well-fenced, decently graded, with a few trees, properly cared for, or ornamental shrubs, decorating the ground, would give a value to his land in the market far beyond the expenditure which would be required of him to transform his lots from a barren waste to an object of beauty.

It is true, and "pity 'tis, 'tis true," that these barren, vacant spaces are likely soon to be concealed from the eye of the passer by the interposition of high board fences, installed by an enterprising advertising company, and on which are displayed, in the rankest colors imaginable, the merits of Simpson Soap, Pilgrim Pills, with an infinite variety of other specifics calculated to cure human ills (after it has created them by suggestion).

This feature of "internal improvement" is especially apparent at this particular time, and if unchecked by some influence, will make the town a laughing-stock to every visitor.

There is evidently abundant room for the San Diego Floral Association to exercise all its energies in the general directions above indicated, rather than described, and it is to be hoped that the Association will be awake to its responsibility in the premises.

PETREA VOLUBILIS

By K. O. Sessions

Petrea volubilis was one of the outstanding and beautiful plants that I found in Honolulu on my visit in June, 1926. It is a tropical vine found from Panama to Brazil and the genus was named by Linnaeus in honor of Lord Petre, a Frenchman who had the finest collection of tropical plants at that time, about 1740. This specie is a decided vine in growth though some of the species are shrubs and volubilis means twining. Its flowers are in narrow racemes five to seven inches long of a beautiful pure lavender and the five lobed calyx is a star with corolla like a small single, dark velvety purple violet in the center. The corolla lasts but a few days while the calyx persists for some time. I have a plant in a glasshouse that is now thrifty and blooming well that I brought home from Honolulu as a tiny rooted cutting. I have also one on the east side of my lath house that has one small spray of blossoms and as the plant becomes well established I anticipate it will be blooming more freely another year. This plant I obtained from Miss Constance Bowers, who got it from Florida, where it is known as the "Queen's Wreath" and "Purple Wreath." Florida plant catalogues list it at $1.00. If you hand anyone a green leaf and ask what it feels like, they will readily answer "Sandpaper," and that it what it is commonly called in Honolulu, the "Sandpaper Vine."

It promises to do better than the Quisqualis indica vine outside. Col. Ed Fletcher has it growing successfully in his glass covered patio and sent a small spray of flowers to the April Flower Show. The Quisqualis indica is a lovely vine in tropical locations, abundant in Honolulu, and a fine one is in the Conservatory at Golden Gate Park in San Francisco; it is just as good here under glass and without artificial winter heat. There should be one in Balboa Park, also the Petrea Volubilis.

Garden Color . . .

By JOHN GIBBS ADAMS

. . . Southern California Has Choicest Opportunity

To us fortunate ones of Southern California, the choicest opportunity—and one that we have neglected the most blamably—is that of making our gardens gay and colorful *every* day in the year. Where else can that be done so easily as here?

And if we put our hearts and minds to that, then and then only, will come true the fibs that have so long gone out to the world in railroad folders and chamber of commerce pamphlets, that "Southern California blossoms in January as in June." It never has done so yet; but you and I can *make* it do so.

Any incompetent can make a garden beautiful in Spring. Nature's color riot does it then, even if the design is poor. But it takes thought and love to do it in midwinter; so let us get busy and spend a lot of both.

To begin with the background; let us plant the gay Acacias, and hunt out the far finer ones than generally are chosen, as Podalyriaefolia and Cultriformis. And the choicer Flowering Eucalypti, and the gorgeous-berried Pittosporum Rhombifolium of orange, and our native "Holly" of Christmas red, and the earliest types of Chinese Flowering Peach, and the gay cerise Prunus Campanulata.

In the way of winter shrubs, our very best chance lies in the use of the "Heathers" (Ericas). For they give more bloom, and that over a longer period, than any other shrub; and they come in many shades of white, lavender, pink and red.

I know a wise gardener who says there ought to be a law compelling every home owner in California to plant at least three heathers.

The Golden Flax or Rheinwardtia (commonly sold in error as Linum flavum, a different and really inferior plant, and seldom seen here) is the best shrub to light up a winter garden with gay yellow.

Poinsettias are good, too, provided frost is light, and there are no intense colors to clash with.

The aristocratic winter-flowering Camellias are among the handsomest flowers we have; and the winter-blooming Daphnes, the most beautifully perfumed. They are not, though, for gardeners who must econmize.

For such, the most of winter color for their money lies in the berry-bearers, as the fine new types of Cotoneasters, particularly the Parneyi of splendid Christmas red, and the pure white Snowberries, and the better Pyracanthas of yellow, orange, or red berries—particularly, in red, the showy Formosana.

You Irish will especially appreciate the Pyracanthas, as it is their stalks and root knobs that make the useful shillahahs!

For vines, the queens of the winter garden are the Evergreen "Syringa" (Philadelphus Sempervirens) of heavenly perfume, and the gorgeous Orange Trumpet Flower (Bignonia venusta).

For bulbs, the midwinter Iris or Sylosa, the gorgeous Stretlitzia or Bird of Paradise and the flame-colored Clivias. Again, however, the latter two are for the somewhat opulent.

Winter annuals that will give a riot of color are Pansies, Violas, Calendulas, Primulas, Stocks and Snapdragons. Of the Cinerarias which seed houses so rampageously advertise as winter bloomers, I have almost never known one grown out of doors to blossom before March! That fib should not be allowed to persist.

Spring, as I said, will take care of itself. So will summer if you remember to include such good standbys as the Day Lilies and cool blue or white Agapanthus, with Fuchsias, Begonias and Impatiens for shaded areas, and the reliable Oleanders and Hibiscus, and Crepe Myrtles for background.

Fall, though, needs love and thought second only to winter. Of course "everybody" has Chrysanthemums and late Dahlias; but generally it ends right there. Add the beautiful Purple Sages, the several Blue Sages, especially the Pitcher Sage; also the brown and bronze and yellow Heleniums, the blue and lanvender Perennial Asters and Erigerons; and, for annuals the stately Cosmos, the African Marigolds, the Phloxes and Mignonettes, particularly Machet; for bulbs, the Purple King Iris and Golden Sternbergia; and then you will have a garden as gay as Spring's.

But, most important of all; you *must* do your thinking on time. Every season at least a hundred people demand certain flowers of me when they see them around in blossom. That is generally at least six months too late. Fall, for instance, is the time to plant for Spring; and Spring the time to plant for Fall.

Speaking of Iris reminds me of an experience. A lady client "vamped" me to arrange for a big luncheon party a centerpieces of Iris blossoms from a rich planting I had made for her. A few days later I asked the colored butler if the ladies had like them. "Why, Mistah Adams, de way the ladies carried on about dem Irishes was sumpin simply scan'lous," he replied.

AUTUMN COLORS

By Peter D. Barnhart

Those of us who reside in this coast, who were born and brought up on the Atlantic coast, will never get away from the impressions made upon our minds by the Autumn colors of that enchanted land in the Fall of the year. The crimson of the Sumac; the gold of the Maple; the bronze of the Oak, and the Beech; the scarlet of the Sour Gum—*Nyssa sylvatica;* the orange-red of the Sweet Gum—*Liquidamber Styraciflua;* the lemon color of the Aspen, all harmoniously blended by the Master Artist. Readers of these lines, do not memories of those days of our youth enthrall us now, as it did when, care free and happy we roamed the woodlands?

The brilliant colors of the Woodbine; the fruits of Bittersweet, and those of the Burning Bush—*Euonymus atropurpurea*—how they thrilled us with joy! Except Sweet Gum they are all unhappy with us, therefore we must be content with what color Homalanthus populifolius; the Pistacia vera, and that of Boston Ivy—*Ampelopsis tricuspidata.* Sweet Gum if grown in fertile soil, and given an abundance of water, does delight the eye of those who love beauty of color.

A CREATION

By Josie K. Anderson

The accomplishment of a neighbor has made me very appreciative of what can be done with a back yard, and what a wonderful retreat it can afford the owner.

When this neighbor bought the property the back yard was a low flat, full of water in the winter and weeds in the summer. Several loads of top soil were hauled in and then little by little it was improved until now it is a delight. House and garage are well to the front of the lot. Back of the garage was built a small lath house which soon proved too small and a larger and more attractive one replaced it. In one corner of the lath house is a rock garden. Along three sides are shelves lined with very choice begonias, coleus, ferns and other odd and attractive plants. The observant person traveling in the back country will find many odd logs, stumps, rocks and such things which add a rustic air to the lath house. A niche is built in the outstanding corner of the house in which a plant is placed. Over the whole grows a vine which is light green and of small foliage so as not to make it too shady. Being lighted by electricity makes it a show place for the evening guest.

In one corner of the yard is a small cactus garden. A high bird bath is near the middle of the yard and often surrounded by a dozen or more birds having a lively time. An odd stone having a hollow center is set in the lawn and gives drink to the stray dog or cat. Two trellis add to the yard. Acacia trees, vines, rose bushes and shrubs are placed just right to add to the whole but not to overcrowd. A lawn has been planted and a cement bench inlaid with squares of mosaic and placed near a shade tree makes a most inviting place to sit and enjoy the beauty of it all. I almost forgot a miniature lath house on stilts in a corner back of the house. It adds an artistic touch to the picture.

Those acquainted with growing things know that the above results were obtained only after many months of work, putting in a shrub here, a plant there; caring for them and coaxing them along. The continued effort has resulted in a creation which is a joy to all who see it. We may not be able to travel far these days but a few hours spent each day building up such a back yard is both restful and satisfying.

While talking about my neighbors I must tell you about the ingenuity of another neighbor. She makes such wonderful flower containers out of discards; wire baskets, tubs, cans and so on, painting them gay colors which add much to a lath house. Her cleverest stunt is taking discarded automobile license plates and making hanging baskets out of them. She wires two of them together on one side, puts three cornered pieces of wood in the ends, and wires in the top to hang them by, paints them many colors and hangs them here and there in her lath house. Hanging plants seem to appreciate their novel home and do well.

We need a retreat to spend a little time, and what more satisfying than fixing up the back yard. It affords the opportunity of experimenting undisturbed, and doing just the things one likes best to do.

Proteas for California

By ERIC WALTHER

. . . *List of Varieties Growing at Golden Gate Park*

IN striking floral effect scarcely inferior to *Banksia* are the Protea's proper. The large, often brightly capitate inflorescence constitute a sufficiently novel ornament to always attract the attention of any visitor. Their likeness to a glorified artichoke is quite obvious, even if misleadingn. Botanically, this similarity is still another illustration of the dictum that "like conditions produce like results," even in quite unrelated families of plants. In reality of course, *Protea* and the *Proteaceae* are removed a long ways indeed from the *Compositae*.. The most closely allied South African genera, to *Protea,* are *Leucadendron,* the Silver-trees, and *Leucospermum,* familiarly named "Pincushions." Of these *Leucadendron* differs in being dioecious, and *Leucospcermum* obviouslyis distinct in the usually much smaller involucre, as well as other technical characters. *Banksia* and *Dryandra* are the West Australian equivalent of *Protea,* their obvious phylogenetie affinity suggests similarity also in cultural requirements. However, the strictly Cape-species of *Protea,* at least, are much less successful out-of-doors, particularly in the Southern part of the State. Whether the consequence of unduly heavy soil, alkaline waters or a too dry atmosphere, all of the species tried so far in Southern California have proven to be short-lived. In the San Francisco Bay-region, though, the more frost-resistant species are much more at home. *P. longiflora,* for instance, has now attained a height of over 10 feet, growing quite unprotected in the open. P. susannae, flowers throughout the coldest January weather, doing so even when the thermometer drops to below the freezing-point. This species, and the even more delicately colored *P. compacta* are the best of the 17 or more species which are being tested here and have flowered. As a matter of record we here list the species now growing at Golden Gate park, San Francisco:

acerosa	*longifolia
amplexicaulis	mundtii
*compacta	*mellifera
cynaroides	neriifolia
grandiceps	obtusifolia
harmeri	pulchella
humiflora	*scolymocephala
lactiocolor	*susanal
*latifolia	

(*—Has flowered.)

Only time can tell which of these shall ultimately prove adaptable and worthwhile, but certainly a thorough test of all obtainable species seems in order. Known to include over 110 species, ranging from the Cape of Good Hope to Abyssinia, the genus *Protea* certainly holds some promise for a region so favored climatically as California. All of the species listed above were grown from seed received through the National Botanic Gardens at Kirstenbosch, Prof. Compton, Director.

Bamboos . . .

By K. O. SESSIONS

. . . *Four Genera of Giant Grasses*

Bamboos are giant grasses and there are four varieties or genera, known as Arundinaria, Bambusa, Dendrocalamus and Phyllostachys. The giant variety in the city that is so conspicuous when old is Dendrocalamus latiflorus and was first cultivated at Santa Barbara where I obtained my first plants.

Arundinaria Hookeriana is the choicest of the slender growing, small stemmed and graceful varieties in the city and there are not over six plants established here. One at La Jolla, one at Mr. Thos. Hamilton's—it should be more generously planted. It was grown from seed by Dr. F. Franceschi Fenzi at Santa Barbara and I obtained him.

Arundinaria Simonii is a very tall, slender grower, its canes seldom over 1 to 1½ inches in diameter so does not seem to be as heavy nor as hard to handle as the giant variety. It is not common here.

Phyllostachys nigra is the black-stemmed variety and very attractive and seldom seen here. It is not a heavy grower but is a spreading grower rather than a clump grower like the previous three sorts listed.

Bambusa quadrangularis is distinguished by a square steam rather than round, and it is a spreading grower.

The finest foliage and most slender stemmed variety I have known as Bambusa gracilis but Bailey lists it as Arundinaria falconeri. It is best and most dainty under lath or in shade, and is a clump growing variety.

There are three sorts of clump growers with canes ½ to ¾ inches when oldest. One has plain green leaves, one has a striped stem and one a variegated leaf. All have the same habit of growth.

There is a small growing variety about two feet in height but it spreads so fast it soon becomes a pest and has no decorative value.

Bamboos should be divided and transplanted in the spring for best results. Even in the early summer they can be moved without cutting down the canes. They will drop their leaves but soon make new ones, so one has the benefit of a large plant at once. Loose soil, some fertilizer and frequent watering makes fine growth. The new canes begin in June to July, grows to full height by December and by January begin to send out the side branches and leafy foliage. Anyone planting the giant variety should fence off a section with concrete walls at least four feet deep to keep the roots within bounds for they are such strong growers that the roots spread thick and fast. In place of the cement wall one can maintain an open ditch and do the watering on the side where the roots can do no damage. Bamboos shed their leaves a good deal so best locate them so the wind blows them where they annoy the least, but the leaves are clean looking and not very disagreeable. Most of the bamboos are sensitive to cold so San Diego could specialize in a large variety and Balboa Park should have a section devoted to them, a roadway bordered by them would be most effective. We should also learn how to handle Bamboo as the Chinese and Japanese do and make it more useful for stools, chairs and many handy articles besides fishing poles!

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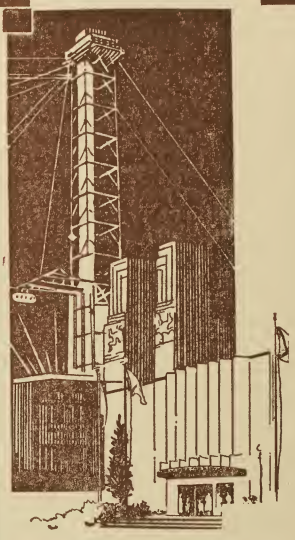

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BUMBLEBEES AND THEIR WAYS

By Otto Emil Plath, M.A., Sc.D. (The Macmillan Co., N. Y., 1934; $4.00.

I think the First Gardener must have been in about equal degree a naturalist. Among his myriad successors, he is indeed an indigent man in his tastes who does not find a large part of the attraction that gardening has for him, not alone in the plants he tends, but likewise in the host of his fellow creatures, walking, crawling, flying, which in one fashion or another tend them too. Some appear to us just unmitigated pests, but most are far from that. The great majority are harmless; in many cases they actually bring us their meed of benefit; and how very, very much they add to our gardens through their manifold contributions, sometimes of sound, often of motion, and finally even of color. Our enjoyment of all is immeasurably augmented if we but try to learn a little of why these creatures are in the garden with us, what they are doing there, and how they are doing it. The details more often than not are intricate and not to all of us is given the patience, even though we possessed the time, to observe and work out all these things for ourselves, while good books to help us are not many. The accidental witnessing for the first time of some probably not uncommon but still unfamiliar animal performance such as the courtship gyrations of a male humming-bird, or the autumn flight of a termite colony, or the curious secondary consequences to our olfactory sensibilities of an undue disturbing of the garlic-snail is often all we need, for the moment at least, to excite our interest and make us keen to know more. The reviewer's interest in the larger bees has been much exacerbated since he chanced in his own garden to be the astonished witness at a few inches range of the dexterity, neatness and dispatch with which one of them, while on the wing, slit the long perianth-tube of a daffodil from summit to base. So clumsy a creature could not obtain the flower's sweet nectar in the ordinary way, but this one proved far from clumsy in swift execution of the very effective method pursued. The many beautiful species of bees provide us in fact with some of the most interesting and delightful acquaintances we can make in our garden. Hence Dr. Plath's beautiful book on the American bumble-bees meets a real need among the many who would find delight in knowing them more intimately and would like to have the way lighted a little.

Most of Dr. Plath's patient observation of them (how often did it prove most literally painstaking as well!) was carried out in New England, but we have so many of the same or closely allied species on the Pacific Coast that his volume provides a good introduction to a better understanding of them for us here likewise. There is much to ponder in the intricate behaviour, the organized social life distinctive for each species, or the strange adaptive parasitism of the species of the genus *Psithyrus*. Almost entirely based on the author's personal studies, the major part of the book is devoted to the life-story of the bees he has observed and the history of their colonies. Technical descriptions and such matters are reserved for the systematically arranged appendix at the end. The book is atractively illustrated in line, half-tone, and color.

S.S.B.

Parkinsonia Aculeata . . .

By K. O. SESSIONS

. . . Beauty of Specimens Enhanced by Warm, Dry Weather

The beauty of this Arizona small tree or large shrub this summer, after the very dry winter and of late the warmer weather, is certainly remarkable. It is a plant worthy of serious consideration for general planting on county highways in particular and in many home gardens and in every neighborhood park. All the good plants that I have observed are growing in locations where the soil is fairly good and deep. It seems rather bare during the winter but is not like a deciduous plant for its stems and trunk are quite green and the leaves very thin and narrow—its local name Palo Verde, meaning "Green tree" or "Green Stick." Its blossoms are the size of a quarter and like a miniature orchid flower, light yellow with brown markings and produced in great abundance. The tree is very light, feathery and drooping with pendant graceful foliage, and has plenty of fine short spines on its branches. It grows readily from seed and if seed were scattered in favorable locations on the roadsides no doubt some excellent results could be obtained. Fine work for the Girl or Boy Scouts. As a cut flower it lasts very well and it won a first prize as a table decoration at one of the flower shows a few years ago. A very beautiful specimen is on the right side of the road just before reaching Lakeside after passing the high school on the same side. This plant has had no care or cultivation. On Golden Hill on C St. near 25th is a fine plant and one in front of my nursery at Pacific Beach that has had no special care or training. It is conspicuous in El Centro as a street tree —and in full bloom there April 2.

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